

SECTION III

PART L POLICIES AND CRITERIA FOR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM PRIORITY SETTING

1.00 Policies and Criteria

1.01 Projects included in the ranking must have Commission approved Facility Program Plans, consistent with:

- All statutory requirements;
- State Postsecondary Education Master Plan policies and designated campus role and mission;
- Campus Long-Range Facilities Master Plan;
- Approved Space and Utilization Standards.

1.02 Both state funded and non-state funded projects will be reviewed for financial feasibility, conformance with established planning guidelines, and consistency with the approved Facilities Program Plan. In reporting non-state funded projects, the Commission is recommending legislative authorization.

1.03 Capital construction requests will be categorized by the Commission based on the assessment of the project and the project's purpose. The Commission will consider the purpose code assigned to the project by the institution using the approved purpose code definitions in the annual CCHE/Office of State Planning and Budget Higher Education annual budget instructions. Staff may recommend assignment of an alternate purpose code for a particular project to the Commission for consideration in prioritization of projects.

1.04 Criteria for Project Ranking

Three broad areas are important to the evaluation and ranking of relative urgencies among individual capital projects within statewide capital construction investment categories.

A. Consistency with General Assembly directives, State and Institution Master Plans

The state budget is the implementation plan for accomplishing mission-oriented goals, objectives, and policies. State investments in capital assets should directly support legislative, CCHE and governing board higher education goals.

B. Institutional Program Workload and Performance

State investments in capital assets primarily support the educational enterprise, its workload, and its performance. Therefore, governing board priorities, program enrollment, and degrees conferred are indicators of the related state and student commitments in the educational enterprise.

The quality of space and the relationship of people and programs to space is vital to the quality of the educational enterprise. Quality considerations include the condition, the efficiency of the scheduling, and the intensity of use of space.

C. The ranking of capital construction requests must be done on three levels:

- by institutional administrators who set institutional priorities and assess the urgency of each project;
- by governing boards which set priorities among campuses;
- by the Commission, which coordinates project phasing and funding reviews with OSPB and the State Buildings Division, sets statewide priorities, giving broad consideration to consistency with existing policy, program workload, and facility condition.

Finally, the Governor and legislature determine actual funding in relation to other state needs.

2.00 CCHE Priorities Among Capital Construction Funding Requests

The Commission recommends balanced investments for three purposes:

- 1) to assure a safe and healthful physical environment conducive to learning; and
- 2) to plan for major decisions about facilities of major importance to campus operations. The Commission sets priorities among the three categories to advance these goals.

To assist the legislature in determining project prioritization for funding the Commission will assess the staff's program plan evaluation, the project purpose as identified using the most current CCHE/OSPB purpose code definitions and the project's ranking against all other requests submitted in a particular funding year. The Commission will consider the urgency of the project, the Governing Board's priorities and the scope of the proposed project.

3.00 Process for Recommending Funding Priorities

Higher education capital construction needs require balanced state investments that eliminate extreme health and safety hazards, complete unfinished construction projects,

relieve the most severe space deficits in specialized facilities, renovate functionally obsolete and congested space of major programs, and provide for prompt technical studies for major campus construction decisions.

- 3.01 CCHE staff and the Commission Advisory Committee will meet with Governing Board representatives to discuss recommendations and issues relevant to prioritization prior to the October Commission meeting at which the prioritization of capital projects will be considered.